

In Oct. 2002 the Austrian „**Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt–BIEN–AUSTRIA**“ was founded. Aims:

- Forum, to discuss open questions and controversial aspects of the Unconditional Basic Income (UBI),
- to initiate research concerning UBI,
- to create a lobby, which should help to support the introduction of UBI,
- to build a platform to link networks of other national and international networks (in particular to link BIEN-Austria with BIEN).

The “**Runde Tisch Grundeinkommen**” (RTG-Austria) was initiated 2006 by BIEN-Austria. The RTG-Austria serves as networking between different associations, initiatives and persons, which are supporting UBI. The basis for this work together is the commitment to the 4 criteria of UBI:

- universal
- individual,
- unconditional,
- high enough for a decent standard of living, which meets society’s social and cultural standards in the country concerned.

UBI should not replace the welfare state but rather complete and transform the same from a compensatory into an emancipatory welfare state.

We see further criteria that make UBI an emancipatory measure, e.g.

- UBI should be a tool to redistribute from the upper to the lower classes, especially with the help of the taxation of capital, wealth, and high incomes;
- there are certain groups of persons with additional needs who should therefore be eligible for special support, in addition to UBI;
- UBI goes along with the maintenance, extension, and democratization of public infrastructures;
- UBI stands in the context of the perspective of gender equality that realizes a radical redistribution of social necessary labour (paid and unpaid) between genders;
- UBI is linked to concepts and social developments towards ecological sustainability;
- the demand of UBI is coupled with further demands that concern employment laws, especially with radical reduction in working hours and with minimum wages.

The UBI is one part of the transformation process with the aim, to manage a “good live for all” (also for further generations).

BIEN-Austria is responsible for the cooperation with BIEN.

Meetings in 2016 / 2017 took place in different cities in Austria (Vienna, Salzburg, Linz, Graz ...). Besides such meetings / events the elaboration of press releases and articles (see www.grundeinkommen.at) were elaborated. BIEN-Austria was engaged in the 9th and the 10th International Basic Income Week (see www.pro-grundeinkommen.at). Together with RTG-Austria the preparation of a new ECI on UBI (text and campaigning plan for 2018 / 2019) and the Eurodividend was supported, which was just discussed on 24. Sept. 2017 in Lisbon.